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Lynwood unified SD sanctuary resolution

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LYNWOOD UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board of Education

Safe Haven District

RESOLUTION NO. 16-17/26

RECOGNITION OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT AS A SAFE HAVEN

WHEREAS, the Lynwood Unified School Board of Education is committed to the success of all students irrespective of their immigration status, ethnicity, race, religion, sexual orientation, ability, sex and gender identity, socio-economic status or beliefs; and

WHEREAS, the Declaration of Independence of the United States of America recognizes every individual's right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; and

WHEREAS, the United States of America was built by diverse peoples, whether native, vassal and/or immigrant; and

WHEREAS, education has played a critical role in furthering tolerance and strengthening our society; and

WHEREAS, California voters during the 2016 General election expressed strong support for public schools by embracing bilingual education through Proposition 58, strengthening funding sources through Proposition 55, and modernizing school facilities through Proposition 51; and

WHEREAS, both the City of Lynwood and the Lynwood Unified School District sit within one of the most ethnically diverse counties within the State of California; and

WHEREAS, the overwhelming majority of students within the Lynwood Unified are of Latino/a descent, and/or are students of color, and most if not all qualify for free and reduced lunch; and

WHEREAS, the national presidential election has resulted in thousands of students and families in Los Angeles County expressing fear, uncertainty, sadness and concerns for student safety, and stability heightened because of intolerant rhetoric made over the course of the 2016 presidential race; and

WHEREAS, youth and families across the district have already experienced increased levels of fear of hate speech based on their ethnicity, religion, or sexual orientation since the election.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Lynwood Unified School Board of Education direct the Superintendent to support the creation of a safe haven school district. This status shall include:

- Promoting tolerance and acceptance over hate speech;
- Maintaining and promoting compliance with Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) 2011 policy stating that it will not conduct immigration enforcement activity at any sensitive location, which includes all district facilities and equipment, without permission by specific federal law enforcement officials; unless exigent circumstances exist; ICE shall not be allowed to enter school sites or district properties without prior written approval from the Superintendent.
- Restricting the sharing of student files that may be used to ascertain the legal status of students;

- Designating LUSD school sites, facilities, and equipment as safe havens for students, families and the community;
- Allocating adequate resources necessary to support diversity, inclusion, and the values of a multicultural society;
- Offering focused professional development opportunities for all levels of staff;
- Endorsing a set of unifying activities consistent with the intent and purpose of this resolution as determined by the Superintendent and report back to the Board within the 2016-2017 school year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Lynwood Unified School Board work closely with the City, County and other state and local municipalities and community organizations to ensure our students and families are offered a protected space; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Lynwood Unified School District Board of Education will submit a letter to the President-Elect, and include any district students, families, staff, and community partners who would like to be added as signatories, affirming the that American ideals that are celebrated in Lynwood contain a number of core ideals and values that include liberty, equality, democracy, individualism, equity, unity, and diversity, for all, and further that we will continue to celebrate them and continue to uphold these core beliefs and values; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board reaffirms its focus on promoting and elevating tolerance, equity, inclusiveness and kindness to all students, families and staff at all district school sites, facilities and material property; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board reaffirm the authority of the Superintendent to protect the data and identities of any student, family member, or school employee who may be adversely affected by any future policies or executive action that results in the collection of any personally identifiable information to the fullest extent provided by the law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board shall not allow ICE agents on school sites, facilities or material property without receiving prior written approval from the Superintendent or a lawfully executed court order; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Board reaffirms Lynwood Unified School District's unequivocal commitment to ensuring a safe educational environment for all students, serving as a safe haven school district for students and families threatened by immigration enforcement or discrimination, to the fullest extent provided by the law.

Passed and Adopted by the Governing Board of the Lynwood Unified School District on January 24, 2017.


Alma Delia Renteria – President

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